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December 17, 2004

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL SERVICE

The Honorable Charles L.A Terreni
Executive Director
South Carolina Public Service Commission
Post Office Drawer 11649
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

RE: Petition to Establish Generic Docket to Consider Amendments
to Interconnection Agreements Resulting from Changes of Law
Docket No. 2004-316-C, Our File No. 611-10116

Dear Mr. Terreni:

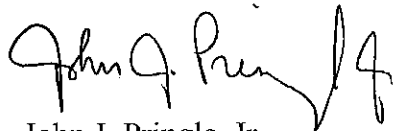
Enclosed is the original and ten (10) copies of the Petition to Intervene, Motion to Hold Proceeding in Abeyance, and Request for the Establishment of a Pre-hearing Conference filed by AT&T of the Southern States, LLC in the above-referenced docket.

Please acknowledge your receipt of this document by file-stamping the copy of this letter enclosed, and returning it in the enclosed envelope. By copy of this letter, I am serving all parties of record and enclose my certificate of service to that effect.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,



John J. Pringle, Jr.

JJP/cr

cc: Gene Coker, Esquire
all parties of record

Enclosures

**BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2004-316-C**

IN RE:

Petition to Establish Generic Docket to
Consider Amendments to
Interconnection Agreements Resulting
from Changes of Law

)
) **PETITION TO INTERVENE, MOTION TO**
) **HOLD PROCEEDING IN ABEYANCE, AND**
) **REQUEST FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT**
) **OF A PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE**
)

AT&T Communications of the Southern States, LLC and TC Systems, Inc. (collectively "AT&T" or "Petitioner"), by its undersigned attorney, hereby Petitions the South Carolina Public Service Commission (the "Commission"), pursuant to Rule 103-836, of the Commission's Rules, for an order allowing AT&T to intervene in the above-captioned Docket, with full rights to participate as a party of record. Further, AT&T moves, pursuant to Rule 103-840 that the Commission Hold these proceedings in Abeyance for the reasons set out herein. Additionally, AT&T requests, pursuant to Rule 103-863, that the Commission direct the parties to hold a prehearing conference.

In support of this pleading, AT&T would show the Commission the following:

PETITION TO INTERVENE

1. AT&T and its affiliates hold various certificates of public convenience and necessity from this Commission.
2. BellSouth filed its Petition to Establish Generic Docket with this Commission on November 3, 2004, requesting that the Commission convene a docketed generic proceeding and hold an evidentiary hearing (as necessary) to determine what changes recent decisions from the Federal

Communication Commission (“FCC”) and the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit (“DC Circuit”) require in existing approved interconnection agreements between BellSouth and competitive local exchange carriers (“CLECs”) in South Carolina.

3. On December 3, 2004, the Commission published its Notice of Filing and Hearing (“Notice”). In that Notice, the Commission established a hearing date of January 25, 2004 and requested that parties that wished to intervene and present evidence to do so by December 17, 2004.

4. Petitioner has a vital interest in this Docket, as AT&T operates pursuant to interconnection agreements with BellSouth, and will thus be affected by any decision the Commission makes in this proceeding.

5. Petitioner seeks to assist the Commission in its designation of the issues to be determined in this proceeding, and advocate its position with respect to those issues.

6. The full name and address of the authorized representative of Petitioner are:

John J. Pringle, Jr.
Ellis, Lawhorne & Sims, P.A.
P.O. Box 2285
Columbia SC 29202

7. Petitioner asserts that the granting of its Petition to Intervene will not in any way delay the proceedings in this Docket.

MOTION TO HOLD PROCEEDING IN ABEYANCE

8. On December 15, 2004, the FCC announced its decision adopting final unbundling rules. It is anticipated that the FCC will issue its written Order containing these final Rules in January of 2005. Thus, in order to determine what changes are required in existing interconnection agreements due to “recent decisions” from the FCC, it will be necessary for the parties to review the

upcoming FCC Order to determine what the final unbundling rules require.

9. At this point in time and until the final unbundling rules are provided in the FCC's written Order, AT&T is not able to determine what disagreements it will have, if any, with BellSouth concerning changes to its interconnection agreement to implement this "recent" FCC Order.

10. Consequently, while the Commission's December 3, 2004 Notice requested that the parties indicate the amount of time that would be required for cross-examination and the presentation of evidence, AT&T will be unable to do so until after an assessment of the FCC's Final Rules has been made and a determination as to whether AT&T and BellSouth have disagreements concerning the implementation of changes to the interconnection agreement to reflect these Final Rules.

REQUEST FOR PREHEARING CONFERENCE

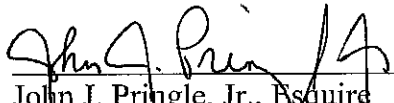
11. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, AT&T requests that the Commission direct the parties to hold a prehearing conference after the issuance of the FCC's Order promulgating its final rules, at which the parties can identify areas of disagreement and thereafter the Commission can establish testimony (or briefing) filing and hearing dates. One of the principal aims of a prehearing conference is the "simplification of issues" [Rule 103-863(A)(1)], and allowing the parties to pare down the issues to be brought to the Commission for determination will be crucial in this proceeding.

WHEREFORE, AT&T prays for the Commission to:

- a) Grant this Petition to Intervene and make AT&T a party of record in Docket Number 2004-316-C, allowing AT&T to participate fully and take such positions as it deems advisable;
- b) Enter an Order that (a) postpones the hearing presently scheduled for January 25, 2005 and (b) establishes a procedural schedule which sets a pre-hearing conference on a date after the issuance of the FCC's Order promulgating its final rules at which the parties can identify areas of disagreement; and
- c) Grant such other relief as is just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

ELLIS, LAWHORNE & SIMS, P.A.



John J. Pringle, Jr., Esquire
1501 Main Street, Fifth Floor
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Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Attorney for AT&T

December 17, 2004
Columbia, South Carolina

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2004-316-C**

IN RE:)	
)	
Petition to Establish Generic Docket to)	
Consider Amendments to Interconnection)	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
Agreements Resulting from Changes of Law)	
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This is to certify that I have caused to be served this day, one (1) copy of the Petition to Intervene, Motion to Hold Proceeding in Abeyance, and Request for the Establishment of a Pre-hearing Conference by placing a copy of same in the care and custody of the United States Postal Service (unless otherwise specified), with proper first-class postage affixed hereto and addressed as follows:

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Columbia SC 29202-0752

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Carol Roof

December 17, 2004
Columbia, South Carolina